



National Marine Fisheries Service

Total Request: \$734,211,000

ORF: \$598,036,000

PAC: \$14,700,000

Fishermen's Contingency Fund: \$952,000

Foreign Fishing Observer Fund: \$191,000

Fisheries Finance Program: \$287,000

Promote & Develop: \$4,828,000

Pacific Coastal Salmon: \$90,000,000

Pacific Salmon Treaty: \$20,000,000

Environmental Improvement & Restoration Fund: \$5,217,000

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the management and conservation of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. NMFS also provides critical support and plays a key advisory role in the management of living marine resources in coastal areas under state jurisdiction, provides scientific and policy leadership in the international arena, and implements internationally agreed-upon conservation and management measures. Through science-based conservation, management actions aimed at sustaining long-term use, and promoting of the health of coastal and marine ecosystems, benefits to the Nation from the use of living marine resources are maximized. Programmatic authorities for NMFS' fisheries management, protected species, and habitat conservation activities derive primarily from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Other acts provide additional authorities for enforcement, seafood safety, habitat restoration, and cooperative efforts with states, interstate fish commissions, and other countries. All these activities rely on a strong scientific and research competency to support the challenging public policy decision process associated with this stewardship responsibility.

Fisheries Modernization. When NMFS' predecessor (the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries) was

incorporated into NOAA 30 years ago, no one predicted the current complexity of living marine resource stewardship. Maximizing the value - commercial, recreational, intrinsic, and ecological - of living marine resources to the Nation in the 21st Century requires NMFS to take a fresh approach to its stewardship role and make basic changes in the way it conducts business. The FY 2002 *Fisheries Modernization* initiative begins this change. NMFS proposes a long-term commitment to improve its structure, processes, and business approaches to meet its mission of sustaining the Nation's living marine resources and their habitat. This initiative will improve NMFS' science, management, and enforcement programs and begin to rebuild its aging infrastructure. These improvements will result in measurable progress in rebuilding or rehabilitating and sustaining the biological and economic health of fisheries and protected species in the United States. Increased funding for improved data collection by NMFS and its industry and state partners, more accurate stock assessment models, and better management processes that synthesize information into successful public policies is essential to achieving its legislative mandates of building sustainable fisheries, restoring healthy coastal ecosystems, and enhancing the recovery of protected species.

For FY 2002, NMFS requests a total of \$734.2 million, \$598.0 million in the ORF account, \$14.7 million in the PAC account, and \$121.5 million in other related accounts. The ORF total includes an increase of 60 FTE and a decrease of \$36.0 million from the FY 2001 Enacted level.

Significant Adjustments-to-Base

Mandatory Pay and Inflationary Costs: \$11.2 million

NOAA requests an increase of \$11.2 million to fund Adjustments-to-Base (ATBs) for NMFS base activities. The increase will fund the FY 2002 federal pay raise of 3.6% and annualize the FY 2001 pay raise of 3.8%. The increase will also provide mandatory inflationary increases for non-labor activities, including service contracts, field office lease payments, and rent charges from the General Service Administration (GSA).

Adjustments: -\$26.8 million

The NMFS base was also adjusted to transfer \$26.8 million for NMFS Acquisition of Data to the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations under the Marine Operations subactivity.

Restoration of FY 2001 Rescission: \$1.2 million

NOAA requests an increase of \$1.2 million to restore the FY 2001 rescission. Restoration of these funds in FY 2002 is required to sustain NMFS current services.

Detailed Program Increases by Sub-Activity

Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF)

Information Collection and Analysis

\$273.8 million

The total request of \$273.8 million represents an increase of \$18.5 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for this subactivity. The goal of this budget subactivity is to provide accurate and timely analyses of the biological, ecological, economic, and social aspects related to the use of the Nation's living marine resources. This information is provided through various research, stock assessments, and data collection activities conducted by NMFS, states, interstate commissions, universities, and the industry. Also included are activities to: determine the impacts of the incidental taking of marine mammals and endangered species in fishing operations; develop forecast models for marine resource populations, ecosystems, and fishery systems; improve the quality and timeliness of information on living marine resources, and their habitats.

Resource Information

\$200.8 million

The total request of \$200.8 million reflects an increase of 19 FTE and \$7.6 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for Resource Information. This level of funding will continue to support many of the programs funded in FY 2001 including: \$4.3 million for west coast groundfish research, \$7.3 million for Magnuson-Stevens Act implementation activities, \$3.4 million for Chesapeake Bay research, \$0.3 million for Southeastern sea turtle research and recovery, and \$8.3 million for red snapper research. Funding within Resource Information to address Steller sea lion recovery is continued at \$29.3 million (additional funding for Steller sea lions is included in the Fisheries Management Programs line). Below are details outlining the increases within the FY 2002 request for Resource Information:

- **Expand annual stock assessments: \$15.0 million**

The total request of \$15.0 million represents an increase of 19 FTE and \$13.3 million above the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funding will provide for additional data collections to improve NMFS' ability to make accurate, timely stock predictions around the country. Funding at this level would add 829 chartered ship days toward the gap of 2,564 days identified in the NMFS Stock Fisheries Data Acquisition Plan as needed for adequate stock assessment coverage. The additional 829 charter ship days would provide 2,265 charter days at sea. Within this total amount is an increase of \$1.0 million to specifically enhance the assessment of marine mammal population status and trends as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

- **Fisheries oceanography: \$1.5 million**

The total request of \$1.5 million for fisheries oceanography represents an increase of \$1.5 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funding will better enable NMFS to assess how long-term environmental factors affect fish stocks, thereby identifying the causes of population fluctuations and improving stock predictions. This program provides an ecosystem context for measuring and predicting population health of species within the ecosystem (e.g., fish and marine mammals), and

to model and forecast how these populations respond to environmental and climate changes.

- **South Florida: \$1.9 million**

The total request of \$1.9 million for South Florida represents an increase of \$0.6 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funding will be used to expand research and monitoring activities in South Florida. As a result of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction projects within the Florida Everglades, NMFS must monitor the impact of inland restoration efforts and the changing freshwater inflow on Florida Bay habitats, nutrient flow, hydrodynamics, and ultimately on measurable ecosystem productivity and health.

- **Aquaculture: \$1.0 million**

The request of \$1.0 million for aquaculture is needed to conduct activities that support the development and implementation of a code of conduct for responsible aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone that will improve the regulatory framework for aquaculture. NMFS will address the important environmental aspects of aquaculture and enhancement activities by developing and implementing environmental monitoring programs, investing in science and technology, and increasing work in the non-indigenous species area, especially for shrimp viruses.

- **Pacific highly migratory species: \$1.0 million**

The request of \$1.0 million will address this growing and critical research need as a new regional council Fishery Management Plan for these species is developed. Among the specific tasks to be undertaken are:

- conduct stock assessments and biological studies for four major tuna species, and three species of sharks;
- address issues affecting management policy choices such as fleet capacity and compliance;
- implement research, monitoring, and management measures under the West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan;
- conduct research to evaluate the extent of bycatch and effectiveness of mitigation measures in purse seine fishing using fish aggregating devices;
- develop and implement assessment methodology tailored for highly migratory species.

- **Southeast Cooperative Research: \$3.0 million**

The total request of \$3.0 million represents an increase of \$0.5 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for Southeast cooperative research activities. This program, as well as the National program funded within Resource Information and the Northeast Cooperative Research program funded under the Fisheries Management Programs subactivity involves fishermen in designing and conducting research programs utilizing the expertise and insights of people who have been close to the environment for the duration of their career - fishermen - in resource survey design and interpretation. These cooperative efforts also work to dispel some of the misperceptions of the methods employed by government scientists responsible for providing scientific advice for fisheries management. Working together to design and implement data collection programs helps all involved parties and strengthens the resultant product. NMFS is addressing regional issues and species-specific needs in various programs around the country through these cooperative programs.

Fishery Industry Information

\$47.1 million

The request of \$47.1 million for Fishery Industry Information represents an increase of \$9.6 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. Below are details outlining the FY 2002 request for Fishery Industry Information:

- **Fish Economics and Statistics research: \$3.4 million**

The total request of \$3.4 million for Fish Economics and Statistics research represents an increase of \$1.4 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. This funding will increase NMFS' capability to conduct economic and social assessments of policy alternatives by improving the economic and social science staff capability, and initiation of data and applied research programs. The outcome will enable NMFS to evaluate and predict the economic and community impacts of policy alternatives, and satisfy statutory, regulatory and Executive Order requirements for assessing the benefits and costs of fisheries management and endangered/protected species management actions. This will help close economic and social science vulnerabilities in NMFS' stewardship processes, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Regulatory Flexibility Act, that have been identified by internal and external advisory and oversight groups.

- **National Fisheries Information System: \$8.0 million**

The total request of \$8.0 million for the National Fisheries Information System will be used to implement a National Fisheries Information System to improve the quality, timeliness, coverage and access to data collected by State and Federal entities for use in the science and management of fisheries. This System has been developed in cooperation with the fishing industry, states, and interstate fisheries commissions as outlined under section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The additional \$1.5 million for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is continued in the FY 2002 request.

Information Analyses and Dissemination

\$25.9 million

The total request of \$25.9 million for Information Analyses and Dissemination represents an increase of \$1.3 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. This request includes \$4.0 million for **information technology refreshment** within the Computer Hardware and Software line an increase of \$0.5 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. These funds support the scientific and computational technology infrastructure necessary to analyze data through computer models used to forecast changes in resource abundance required for long-range management. NMFS' current computer infrastructure is outdated (over 8 years old) and must be updated to keep pace with the ever increasing flow of fisheries information.

Conservation and Management Operations

\$302.9 million

The total Request of \$302.9 million for this subactivity represents an increase of \$13.1 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funding provides for the development and implementation of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the

Sustainable Fisheries Act, and for the management of protected species under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. It also includes funding for the enforcement of laws and regulations under these and other statutes. This subactivity also funds NMFS efforts to protect fisheries habitats, the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils, and Mitchell Act hatcheries along the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest.

Fisheries Management Programs

\$140.1 million

The total request of \$140.1 million for the Fisheries Management programs represents an increase of 4 FTE and a decrease of \$7.5 million from the FY 2001 Enacted level. This level of funding will continue to support many of the programs funded in the FY 2001 appropriation including: \$6.7 million for American Fisheries Act implementation, \$21.0 million for data collection for fishery management programs including implementation of National Environmental Policy Act requirements, and \$11.0 million for coral reef programs. Below are details outlining the FY 2002 request for the Fisheries Management Programs:

- **NMFS Facilities Operations and Maintenance: \$4.4 million**

The total request of \$4.4 million represents an increase of \$0.4 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level to cover operation and maintenance costs at two key facilities, the new Santa Cruz, California, Laboratory and Kodiak, Alaska, Laboratory.

- **Essential Fish Habitat: \$2.5 million**

NOAA requests a total of \$2.5 million for essential fish habitat (EFH) activities. This investment will enable NMFS to collect critical scientific data that are needed to identify EFH more precisely for managed species, enhancing the effectiveness of fishery management actions, and filling data gaps that can provoke litigation. Research will also focus on the effects of specific fishing activities on EFH, comparing those impacts to other sources of habitat degradation, monitoring habitat recovery in areas where fishing has been curtailed, and developing management strategies to ensure sustainable harvesting practices. NMFS will enhance its ability to provide timely and meaningful conservation recommendations for activities that have the potential to impact EFH.

- **Fisheries Observers: \$4.0 million**

NOAA requests a total of \$4.0 million to support the National Observer Program. This investment would provide increased observer coverage to minimum levels as required by regulation or to optimal levels as recommended by fisheries scientists for statistical validity, and initiate coverage in fisheries that were previously not observed.

- **Fisheries Habitat Restoration: \$12.0 million**

The total request of \$12.0 million represents a decrease of \$5.9 million from the FY 2001 Enacted level for the Fisheries Habitat Restoration program. Within this amount and increase of \$2.0 million is requested to expand community-based restoration projects. Within the FY 2002

request, both the Bronx River restoration project and the Pinellas County, Florida restoration project will continue at the \$1.0 million level.

- **Northeast Fisheries Management: \$3.5 million**

NOAA requests a total of \$3.5 million for Northeast Fisheries Management. This investment will enable NMFS to continue rebuilding overfished and overcapitalized Northeast fisheries including groundfish and scallops. Additionally, this funding provides programmatic support for NMFS' participation in regional cooperative research programs.

- **Cooperative Research in the Northeast: \$5.0 million**

NMFS requests \$5.0 million to continue cooperative research activities in the Northeast that was started in FY 2001 as a transfer from USDA. This program, as well as, the Southeast Cooperative Research program and National Cooperative Research programs funded in Resource Information involves fishermen in designing and conducting research programs utilizing the expertise and insights of people who have been close to the environment for the duration of their career - fishermen - in resource survey design and interpretation. NMFS is addressing regional issues and species specific needs in various programs around the country through these other cooperative programs. An additional \$5.0 million for the Northeast Consortium, included in the FY 2001 appropriation, is maintained in the FY 2002 request.

- **Regional Councils: \$15.7 million**

The total request of \$15.7 million represents an increase of \$2.5 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. This request supports all eight Councils' increased workload from new programs and regulations as a result of implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Act amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS is the Councils' only source of funding to carry out their vital mission.

Protected Species Management

\$105.0 million

The total request of \$105.0 million for the Protected Species Management program represents an increase of \$10.2 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level. This request proposes to continue protected species recovery and management efforts including Atlantic salmon, California sea lions, Atlantic right whales, native marine mammals, Pacific salmon, and the marine mammal stranding network.

- **Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan: \$62.8 million**

The total request of \$62.8 million represents an increase of 12 FTE and \$7.6 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for the Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan. This level of funding continues current base programs and includes \$0.9 million for Steller sea lion Recovery and \$38.0 million for Pacific Salmon.

- **Sea Turtles: \$6.3 million**

The total request of \$6.3 million represents an increase of 6 FTE and \$3.0 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for marine sea turtle activities to recover Atlantic and Pacific stocks threatened by domestic and international fisheries interactions as well as inadequate conservation of marine turtle nesting beaches.

- **Marine Mammals: \$4.5 million**

The total request of \$4.5 million represents an increase of \$1.0 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for **dolphin** conservation and recovery to expand current activities in stock identification and assessment, to reduce mortality incidental to commercial fishing activities, and to initiate efforts to use bottlenose dolphins as an indicator of the health of the ecosystems they occupy.

- **Atlantic Salmon: \$6.3 million**

The total request of \$6.3 million represents an increase of 6 FTE and \$1.5 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level to conserve and restore healthy populations of Atlantic salmon in the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment and their habitats. NOAA will use this increase to expand the monitoring of Atlantic salmon population dynamics, expand habitat assessment and conservation, enhance scientific knowledge related to human resource usage and development activities that are affecting species survival, and strengthen evaluations to minimize risk through coordinated planning, innovative partnering, and on-site involvement in restoration, conservation, and protection activities.

- **Right Whales: \$7.0 million**

The total request of \$7.0 million represents an increase of \$2.0 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for Northern right whales to expand current population and health assessments and recovery efforts in the North Atlantic and in the North Pacific.

Enforcement and Surveillance

\$47.3 million

The total request of \$47.3 million represent an increase of 27 FTE and \$10.1 million over the FY 2001 Enacted level for Enforcement and Surveillance activities to modernize NMFS' fisheries and protected species enforcement programs. Of this amount, \$7.4 million is needed for additional support, continued modernization and expansion of the vessel management system (VMS) program. This national program is capable of accommodating nearly 10,000 vessels throughout a number of different fisheries. The remaining \$39.9 million is requested to expand and modernize base enforcement programs, an increase of \$3.9 million over FY 2001 Enacted level. These programs include, Alaska and west coast groundfish enforcement, protected species enforcement, state and local partnerships, specialized Magnuson-Stevens Act

investigatory functions, community oriented policing and problem solving, and swordfish/Patagonian toothfish import investigations.

State and Industry Assistance Programs

\$21.4 million

The total request of \$21.4 million for State and Industry Assistance is \$40.8 million below the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment provides the same level as the FY 2001 Enacted for product quality and safety research, grants to states under the Anadromous and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Acts, the three interstate fisheries commissions, and implementation of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act.

Acquisition of Data

All funding for this program has been transferred to the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) under the Marine Operations subactivity. The transfer of these activities to OMAO will allow for the management of the fleet operations as a NOAA-wide asset.

Procurement Acquisition and Construction Account (PAC)

Construction

\$14.7 million

The total request of \$14.7 million for this activity represents a decrease of \$39.5 million from the FY 2001 Enacted level.

- **Juneau Research Facility: \$11.7 million**

The total request of \$11.7 million for the Juneau Research Facility represents a decrease of \$3.2 million from the FY 2001 Enacted level. Funds will be used to continue the construction of a new state-of-the-art research facility at Lena Point. This facility will replace the current outdated laboratory and expand NMFS groundfish and ecosystem research capabilities significantly. This facility will also include a sea water storage and distribution system. The proposed facility will enable NMFS to more adequately manage the commercial, recreational and environmental resources in the North Pacific. The University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences continues to plan to co-locate their new facility at Lena Point.

- **Honolulu Facility: \$3.0 million**

NOAA requests a total of \$3.0 million to continue the replacement of the Honolulu Laboratory. Compliance with current building code and disability standards continues to be a serious concern. This funding will enable the project to proceed with work needed to correct several deficiencies, such as overcrowding, lack of laboratories, inadequate or nonexistent handicap access, and hazardous materials. Specific activities to be completed under this initial phase will include preparations for relocating personnel to temporary facilities during construction, construction of mitigation parking for neighboring University of Hawaii, and initial site preparations.

Fleet Replacement

In January of 2001, NOAA awarded a construction contract to Halter Marine, Inc. of Gulfport, Mississippi for the first FRV. The Fisheries Research Vessel (FRV) program contract includes options for up to three additional vessels. No funds are requested for a second vessel in FY 2002. The state-of-the-art ship, which will be NOAA's first acoustically quiet fisheries research vessel, will become operational in three years. This vessel will be capable of conducting a wide variety of scientific missions, including fisheries stock assessments, physical and biological oceanography, marine mammal research, atmospheric and sea surface research, and development of advanced technologies for fisheries research and assessment. This program remains a high priority for NOAA and NMFS.

Fishermen's Contingency Fund (FCF) \$0.9 million

The total request of \$0.9 million continues this Fund at the FY 2001 Enacted level. Title IV of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of September 18, 1978, (P.L. 95-372, Section 402) as amended, established the Fisherman's Contingency Fund. This Fund provides compensation to domestic fishermen for the damage or loss of fishing gear, and resulting economic loss due to obstructions related to oil and gas exploration, development, or production in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

The Fund is supported by assessments on holders of leases, explorations, permits, easements, and rights of way in areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Foreign Fishing Observer Fund (FFOF) \$0.2 million

The total request of \$0.2 million continues this Fund at the FY 2001 Enacted level. The Foreign Fishing Observer Fund provides observer coverage of foreign fishing activities within the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Fund is supported by fees charged to foreign fishermen for the cost of placing an observer aboard their vessel while operating within the EEZ. Beginning in FY 1985, foreign fishermen were also permitted to contract directly with NMFS approved observer contractors to obtain observers (the Supplemental Observer Program). Appropriated funds plus direct contracting under the Supplemental Observer Program will provide 100% observer coverage.

Fisheries Finance, Program Account \$0.3 million

NOAA requests a total of \$0.3 million for the Fisheries Finance, Program Account. Under the authority of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 and the provisions of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, the Federal Ship Financing Fund became a liquidating account for loan guarantees made prior to FY 1992. Loan guarantees made on or after October 1, 1991, were made under the Fishing Vessel Obligation Guarantee (FVOG) appropriation. The re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in September 1996 changed the program to direct loans, from loan guarantees. The loans awarded under the base Fisheries Finance Program can be used to provide long-term fisheries loans for vessels and shoreside facilities (including aquaculture facilities) and for industry-funded capacity reduction programs.

Promote and Develop Fishery Products & Research Pertaining to American Fisheries (P&D)

The American Fisheries Promotion Act (AFPA) of 1980 authorized a grants program for fisheries research and development projects to be carried out with Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) funds. S-K funds are derived from duties on imported fisheries products. An amount equal to 30% of these duties is being transferred to the Department of Commerce from the Department of Agriculture. FY 2002 estimates this transfer at \$72.8 million. Of this amount, \$4.8 million will be used for the S-K grants program to develop a healthy fishing industry (including costs of program administration). The remainder of the transfer (\$68.0 million) will be used to offset the Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) account. The duties transferred to this account are calculated on a calendar year basis and, if necessary, will be revised after the submission of the President's request.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Program

\$90.0 million

The total request of \$90.0 million continues the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund at the FY 2001 Enacted level. The states and tribes will use these funds for habitat restoration and protection, research and enhancement, monitoring and evaluation, and salmon recovery planning and implementation. These funds will be used to enhance Pacific Coastal Salmon for the purpose of helping share the costs of state, tribal and local conservation initiatives. Programs funded within this account will bolster existing State and tribal capabilities to assist in the conservation of Pacific salmon runs, some of which are at risk of extinction in the states of California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Funds provided to these states will have at least a 25 percent match. Funds provided to Pacific coastal and Columbia River tribes do not require matching dollars. This budget responds to current and proposed listings of coastal salmon and steelhead runs under the Endangered Species Act by forming lasting partnerships with states, local and tribal governments and the public for saving Pacific salmon and their important habitats.

Pacific Salmon Treaty

\$20.0 million

The total request of \$20.0 million continues to implement the Pacific Salmon Agreement at the FY 2001 Enacted level. This level of funding will provide \$10.0 million to capitalize the Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund and \$10.0 million to the Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration Fund. The treaties are also supported by funds from the State Department. By FY 2003, a total of \$65.0 million is needed to fully fund the Southern Fund and \$75.0 million is needed to fully fund the Northern Fund. The two endowment funds are administered by the Pacific Salmon Commission for habitat, stock enhancement, science and salmon management initiatives in both the United States and Canada.

Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund

\$5.2 million

NMFS requests a total of \$5.2 million out of a total NOAA request of \$10.4 million for the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (EIRF). The other half of the EIRF is described under the National Ocean Service. The EIRF was created by the Department of Interior and the Related Agencies Act of 1998 for the purpose of carrying out marine research activities in the North Pacific. The EIRF provides funds for the purpose of carrying out marine research activities in the North Pacific. These funds will provide grants to Federal, State, private or foreign organizations or individuals to conduct research activities on or relating to the fisheries or marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean.